

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 23, 2008. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9 to 11 and 13 to 18 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 to 18 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 to 8, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,526 (Ohtsuka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,042,500 (Niikawa). Claims 1 to 4, 9 to 13, 15, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ohtsuka in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0196346 (Nishio) and Niikawa. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system comprising an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer. The external operating apparatus includes reading means for reading out image data from a detachable storage medium; a display unit which displays a print setting screen; an operation panel which receives a print setting instruction provided by a user based on the print setting screen displayed on the display unit; a button operative to instruct the host computer to preview the image data read out by the reading means; transmission means for transmitting the image data read out by reading means, to the host computer in response to the button being operated; and a controller which generates an interruption event in accordance with the operation panel receiving the print setting instruction after the image data read out by the reading means is transmitted to the host computer by the transmission means so that the generated interruption event is transmitted to the host computer to cause it to reflect a print setting corresponding to the print

setting instruction received by the operation panel in the image data transmitted by the transmission means. The host computer includes a receiving unit which receives the image data read out by the reading means and then transmitted by the transmission means from the storage medium; a display control unit which receives the interruption event generated by the controller from the external operating apparatus and effects a preview display in which the print setting is reflected in the image data received by the receiving unit; and a print control unit which generates print data corresponding to the print setting. The printer prints the print data output from the host computer.

Claim 5 is directed to an external operating apparatus connectable to a print system constructed by a host computer including at least a receiving unit which receives image data and an interruption event, a display control unit which effects a preview display in which a print setting is reflected in the image data received by said receiving unit, a print control unit which generates print data corresponding to the print setting and outputs-the generated print data to a printer, and said printer. The apparatus comprises a reading means for reading out image data from a detachable storage medium; a display unit which displays a print setting screen; an operation panel which receives the print setting instruction provided by a user based on the print setting screen displayed on said display unit; a preview button operative to instruct said host computer to preview the image data read out by said reading means; transmission means for transmitting the image data read out by said reading means, to said host computer in response to said preview button being operated; and a controller for generating the interruption event in accordance with said operation panel receiving the print setting instruction after the image data read out by said reading means is transmitted to said host computer by said transmission means so that the generated interruption event is transmitted to said host computer to cause it to reflect a

print setting corresponding to the print setting instruction received by said operation panel in the image data transmitted by said transmission means.

Claim 9 is directed to an information processing apparatus which can communicate with an external operating apparatus including reading means for reading out image data from a detachable storage medium, a display unit which displays a print setting screen, an operation panel which receives a print setting instruction provided by a user based on the print setting screen displayed by said display unit, a preview button operative to instruct said information processing apparatus to preview the image data read out by said reading means, transmission means for transmitting the image data read out by said reading means, to said information processing apparatus in response to said preview button being operated, and a controller which generates an interruption event in accordance with said operation panel receiving the print setting instruction after the image data read out by said reading means is transmitted to said information processing apparatus by said transmission means so that the generated interruption event is transmitted to said information processing apparatus to cause it to reflect a print setting corresponding to the print setting instruction received by said operation panel in the image data transmitted by said transmission means, and a printer, said apparatus comprising: a receiving unit which receives the image data and the interruption event transmitted from said external operating apparatus; a display control unit which effects a preview display in which the print setting is reflected in the image data received by said receiving unit; and a print control unit which generates print data corresponding to the print setting and outputting the generated print data to said printer.

Claims 13, 14 and 15 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with Claims 1, 5 and 9, respectively. Claims 16, 17 and 18 are directed to computer-readable storage media substantially in accordance with the Claims 1, 5 and 9, respectively.

Applicants submit that Ohtsuka, Niikawa and Nishino, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, Ohtsuka, Niikawa and Nishino fail to disclose an external operating apparatus included in a print system of the present invention, where the external operating apparatus is arranged to include an operation panel functioning together with reading means, a display unit, and a preview button so that the operation panel receives a print setting instruction provided by a user based on a print setting screen displayed on the display unit and image data read out from a detachable storage medium by the reading means is transmitted to a host computer in response to the preview button being operated. The present invention further features that the external operating apparatus is arranged to generate an interruption event in accordance with the operation panel receiving the print setting instruction after the read-out image data is transmitted to the host computer so that the generated interruption event causes the host computer to reflect a print setting corresponding to the received print setting instruction in the image data transmitted from the external operating apparatus.

In contrast to the present invention, Ohtsuka discloses a print order system in which a digital camera 3 is arranged to set print conditions and record the set print conditions as attribute information of an image in an image file and this image file is loaded into a PC 4. A user operates the PC 4 to cause it to display the loaded image data and generate a print order file to be recorded on a recording medium 5. The recording medium 5 is then brought into a laboratory by the user, so that an order receiving apparatus 1 receives the image file 9 and order

file 10 from the recording medium 5 and prints the image data 6 designated in accordance with image information 11 stored in the order file 10. As such, Ohtsuka merely discloses that the image file 9 and order file 10 may be transmitted to the order receiving apparatus 1 via a network. However, Ohtsuka fails to disclose the mechanism of the transmission. In addition, Ohtsuka is silent as to communication between the camera 3 and the PC 4. Therefore, Ohtsuka fails to disclose or suggest that the camera 3 generates and transmits an interruption event to the PC 4 every time an operation panel of the camera 3 is operated and the PC 4 executes processing corresponding to the received interruption event. As such, it cannot be said that Ohtsuka discloses or suggests the controller functioning together with the operation panel as featured in amended independent Claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants have reviewed Niikawa and submit nothing in Niikawa is seen to cure the deficiencies of Ohtsuka. Niikawa discloses a digital camera system including a digital camera 1 and a connected computer 100. In this system, when the digital camera is connected to the computer, the computer displays, on a display screen thereof, a rear view of the camera together with an image actually displayed on a display panel of the camera, as shown in Fig.8. This displayed rear view of the camera includes a frame forwarding key and a frame backwarding key, which are used to reproduce a desired recorded image. That is, by operating (e.g., clicking) those keys by the computer, an image to be reproduced by the camera can be changed. The reference of Niikawa therefore may teach that information regarding operations on the displayed keys by the computer is transmitted to the digital camera serving as a slave device in the system. However, Niikawa fails to disclose or suggest that an interruption event is generated in a device on the camera side, which device is arranged to store image data, in response to the device being operated to set a print setting and that the generated interruption

event is transmitted in real time to the computer to which the device has already transmitted the image data. That is, the reference of Niikawa also does not disclose or suggest a controller as featured in amended independent Claim 1.

Finally, Applicants have reviewed Nishino and submit that it also fails to cure the deficiencies of Ohtsuka. Nishino merely discloses that an image file GF generated in a digital still camera 12 is transmitted to a color printer via a cable CV and a computer PC or via the cable CV. However, Nishino fails to disclose or suggest that the interruption event is generated in the device on the camera side, which device is arranged to store image data, in response to the device being operated to set the print setting. Furthermore, Nishino fails to disclose or suggest that the generated interruption event is transmitted in real time to the computer to which the device has already transmitted the image data.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants submit that Ohtsuka, Niikawa and Nishino, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an external operating apparatus that is arranged to include the controller functioning together with the operation panel, the operation button and the transmission means as featured in amended independent Claim 1.

Independent Claim 5 recites the features of an external operating apparatus of the print system of the present invention, and independent Claim 9 recites an information processing apparatus (such as the host computer recited in Claim 1) in reference to the external operating apparatus of the present invention. Therefore, Applicants submit that the discussion from above applies as well to Claims 5 and 9.

In light of the deficiencies of Ohtsuka, Niikawa and Nishino as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 to 18 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

### CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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